



CALIFORNIA STATE SENATE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

From under the Dome

SENATOR KEVIN MURRAY, CHAIR

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A jump-start for the solar industry

"Solar-power rebate legislation is a bright idea"

-*San Jose Mercury*

"A Ray of Hope for Solar"

-*LA Times*

"Solar shimmer"

-*Riverside Press Enterprise*

What's all this unusual editorial optimism about? Well, it seems that everywhere the sun shines in California, editorial boards are excited about legislation that may make solar energy as



commonplace in our state as wall plugs.

Senate Bill 1, authored by Senator Kevin Murray, is the nation's first serious attempt to harness one of the truly renewable power-generating resources in the world.

Entitled "The One Million Solar Roofs Initiative," this bi-partisan legislation is aimed at putting a minimum of one million solar units

on California residential and commercial rooftops by the year 2018. By greatly expanding and legitimizing the solar technology market, production costs will come down, investments in research and development will soar, and rate payers - and the environment - will benefit immeasurably.

One million roof-top solar units will produce more than 3,000 megawatts of electricity at any given time -- the equivalent of a half-dozen large power plants,

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From dot-com to watt-com??

In response to the promise of the One Million Solar Roofs Initiative, the San Jose Mercury News recently opined: "By creating a robust market for solar power, California puts itself at the center of an industry with a big future. There's no question that cheap solar power would be a boon almost everywhere, especially in the developing world."

In a world (and a state) of dwindling resources, there remains one power supply that is absolutely free and

beyond the control of others: the sun. Florida calls itself the Sunshine State, but the reality is that California is infinitely better situated to capture solar power and gain the economic prosperity that will come with the development of solar technology industry. Even with the solar industry in its infancy, California already ranks third in the world in solar development — just behind Germany and Japan.

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Save some energy, save some money

Energy Saving Tips

With summer temperatures on the rise and California's energy demands high, it behooves California residents, business owners, farmers, and even our local governments to seek out ways to save energy. Saving energy will not only protect our energy supply, but will save consumers money on their energy bill.

A typical California home could possibly cut a third or more of its current energy bill by utilizing these energy saving tips:

- Set your thermostat to keep air conditioning at 78°F when it is hot outside and your heating system at 68°F when it is cold. This can reduce your energy bill by 20 percent.
- Avoid lighting an empty room and take advantage of natural light whenever possible.
- Use major appliances after 7 p.m. Turn off equipment like ceiling



fans, stereos, and computers when not in use.

- Reduce the operating time of your pool filter and automatic cleaning sweep to 4 to 5 hours, and only during off-peak time.
- Test for air leaks by holding a lit incense stick next to windows, doors, electrical boxes, plumbing fixtures, electrical outlets, ceiling fixtures, attic hatches and other locations where there is a possible air path to the outside. If the smoke steam travels horizontally, you have located an air leak that may need caulking, sealing or weather stripping.
- Change the air filters in your cooling and heating systems monthly for maximum benefit.

Did you know...

- You could save 11 percent of water heating costs for every 10°F you lower the temperature of your water heater.
- Commercial businesses using diffused, well-shaded daylight for illumination in critical-task spaces can reduce electrical energy usage by more than 40 percent. A three-by-five foot office window in direct sunlight lets in more light than 100 60-watt incandescent bulbs.
- Local governments could save energy by replacing incandescent traffic signal lighting with light-emitting diode (LED) lamps, which last up to 10 years and are as much as 90 percent more energy efficient.

Find some tips and tricks to save on your power bill online at Flex Your Power:

www.fypower.org

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SB 1

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enough power for 3 million homes. SB 1 could eliminate the need to construct costly, and environmentally-unfriendly power plants.

SB 1 will offer incentives to new home buyers in the form of rebates. It will require developers to offer solar electricity as an optional amenity — like tile entryways — and roll the system's cost into the home's mortgage payments. The rebate would decline each year, and sunset in 2015, but the benefit to the homeowner and the state

will continue as long as the sun shines in the form of cheaper and more reliable electricity.

The bill is based on a comprehensive plan developed in partnership with the Legislature and the governor, in collaboration with environmentalists, homebuilders, energy advocates and the solar industry.

The intent of the legislation is to jump start the solar industry in a state that is perfectly poised to do so. The LA Times said it best: "How strange that solar energy remains a rarity in a state with such dependable sunshine, which beats down, wasted, on our rooftops."

Market

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Across the U.S., the use of solar and renewable energy is expected to double by the year 2010, which would create more than 350,000 new jobs, as many as are employed by the nation's largest automaker. By encouraging solar power development instead of construction of more fossil fuel power plants, SB1 will reduce air pollution equivalent to the output of 400,000 automobiles. California's

environmental policies have had a significant impact on vehicle pollution and fuel management. Solar power technology will greatly add to this environmental benefit.

Research conducted by Environment California shows that every megawatt of solar installed creates two to three times more jobs than are created by constructing new natural gas power plants. This means that building more than a million solar roofs

by 2017 will bring more than 6,000 new construction and maintenance jobs.

In addition to creating jobs, solar power may very well preserve jobs. During the power outages of the recent energy crisis, businesses and consumers suffered financial losses. The blackout on June 14, 2000, cost Silicon Valley companies – alone – from \$1 million per hour to \$1 million per minute, depending on the size and nature of the business.

What does the future hold? The photo-

voltaic (PV) industry worldwide will be worth \$30-\$40 billion by 2025, according to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. Industry groups see the photovoltaic market growing from \$2.5 billion in 2000 to \$23.5 billion in 2010.

If California policies are a catalyst to increased solar development we could eventually replace the dot-com bust with a watt-com boon.



Senate Legislative Highlights

There are many pieces of legislation introduced in the Senate every year. The list below highlights some bills from the 2005 session. These bills have passed the Senate and are on their way to becoming law:

SB 840 (Kuehl): Creates a new state health insurance program covering all state residents.

SB 437 (Escutia): Creates the California Healthy Kids Insurance Program.

SB 820 (Kuehl): Enhances state water conservation requirements.

SB 357 (Dunn): Requires that handgun ammunition be serialized.

SB 521 (Torlakson): Encourages the development of housing near transit stations.

SB 719 (Romero/Margett): Seeks to limit high speed police pursuits that unnecessarily endanger the public.

SB 794 (Scott): Improves linkages between high schools and community colleges.

SB 188 (Simitian): Provides grant assistance to the families of deployed California National Guard members.

SB 879 (Escutia): Requires that completion of human illness investigations in connection with pest control provisions take no longer than 60 days.

SB 757 (Kehoe): Increases transportation efficiency and the use of alternative fuels to reduce oil consumption.

For more information about these bills and others, visit <http://democrats.sen.ca.gov>

Check out these links to learn more about solar energy:

- <http://www.eere.energy.gov/RE/solar.html>
- <http://www.californiasolarcenter.org/>
- <http://www.greentreks.org/>

A closer look at Senate District 26

The 26th Senate District, represented since 1998 by Senator Kevin Murray, is rich in historical and cultural symbols...most notably, the vast variety that represents Hollywood and the motion picture and recording industries.

This fits well with Senator Murray, who came to the legislature from the entertainment industry. Prior to specializing in entertainment law, Murray was a talent agent with the William Morris Agency. Armed with that background and experience, Murray has been a leader in the Legislature in protecting the rights of artists and, most recently, the rights of privacy and the protection of personal information against Internet intrusions.

World-renowned icons are everywhere in his district, from the Hollywood "sign on the hill" to the intersection of Hollywood and Vine. His district is home to the most famous movie theater in the world, Grauman's Chinese Theater, and a host of historic film studios, from the Culver



City studios of Selznik, MGM, Sony, and Columbia, to Hollywood's 20th Century Fox and Paramount Studios.

Senate District 26 is also home to the recording

industry's Capitol Records with its headquarters located in the famous "stacked record" building along Highway 101.



Sen. Kevin Murray
District 26

The 26th district is also home to Exposition Park, which includes the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, site of two Olympic Games, and the new California Science Center, the California African American Museum, and the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History.

Just north of Exposition Park is one of the world's leading private research facilities — the University of Southern California.

Nearby are the Baldwin Hills Recreational Area and the Kenneth Hahn Park, which are among the largest urban parks in the United States.

In the summertime, LA's most popular cultural destination is the Hollywood Bowl, which is also the summer home of the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra. It is also one of the largest natural amphitheaters in the world.

And of course, there are the 800,000 good citizens of the district who call this unique and wondrous place "home."

Constituent Corner

This spring, Senator Murray's district office received a call from a nurse on behalf of her patient, "C." C has Multiple Sclerosis (MS), a debilitating, often frightening disease. It attacks one's motor functions, and often worsens over time. C's doctor prescribed Avonex, a drug that helps halt the progression of MS, but unfortunately, Medi-Cal mishandled C's paperwork and repeatedly denied her requests to fill the prescription.

After two months of runaround, the frustrated nurse, concerned for the health of her patient, called the senator's office. It turned out that the reason Medi-Cal had denied C's requests for the

essential drug was that the Treatment Authorization Request form (TAR) had not been completed. Without a completed TAR, the prescription could not be processed. It was just a paperwork snafu, but the problem could have caused irreparable injury to C.

Senator Murray's district office called the Department of Health Services to resolve the problem. After several phone calls back and forth, Medi-Cal corrected its paperwork and C's pharmacy verified that it could now fill the prescription. C was able to get the drug the same day.